

Ask \$100,000 For Benev Fund

Another Western Drive-in Group

Plans for a drive-in circuit in Calgary and Edmonton and a projected \$1,125,000 building containing a theatre highlighted the current industry construction news in Canada. Opening of two theatres and progress of work on others also was featured in

(Continued on Page 10)

Hollywood Gross Like 1945 Figure

The 1948 gross of the domestic motion picture industry (of which about 5 per cent is provided by Canada) was 8¼ per cent below that of 1946 but was still as good as 1945. This figure was given at a closed meeting in Hollywood of the Motion Picture As-

(Continued on Page 10)

Picture Pioneers Propose One Canada-Wide Owl Show

Leading Canadian trade figures met in Toronto last week to discuss a plan whereby the first real move would be made toward meeting the expanded financial needs of the Canadian Picture Pioneers Benevolent Fund. The Fund has

Two-City Television Said Set For '50

"The matter of television is being given consideration. In the near future the government will make an announcement of policy in that regard," was the reply of the Hon. J. J. McCann to an enquiry of N. J. M. Lockhart in the House of Commons.

It is expected that the government will say that television will begin in 1950 in Toronto and Montreal. There was no hint of what might happen to the applications for licences.

Editorials condemning the refusal to grant private licences are frequent now.

been in existence for several years now and though its present assets are limited it has done great good in providing assistance for needy and helpless members of the Canadian motion picture industry. Although first organized to aid members of the organization, its scope was soon broadened to include all persons in the industry who were in difficulties.

It has been proposed that exhibitors run a single midnight show right across the Dominion,

(Continued on Page 3)

UI's 'Contraband'

Shelley Winters will have the feminine lead in Universal-International's "Contraband."

Advance OK For Distrib Rights

Prepayment of funds in excess of \$500 to principals in the USA or Great Britain as advance royalties for Canadian rights to films is now possible. The Foreign Exchange Control Board is prepared to consider such requests. It was in Novem-

(Continued on Page 3)

Seven SRO Stars Now At Warners

Acquisition of a group of Selznick stars on loanout, together with the present player roster of Warner Brothers, would give that company the strongest box-office lineup for the industry's coming season, Jack L. Warner said following the announcement

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UK Team Planning Pix Here—Massey

Canadian film production by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, leading United Kingdom producers, will begin in the next 18 months, Raymond Massey told a gathering in Kingston, Ontario, recently. The famed Toronto-born stage and screen star was guest speaker at the 50th anniversary of the founding of the drama guild of Queen's University. He shared the speaking honors with Leonard W. Brockington, KC, rector of Queen's and a vice-president of Odeon Theatres (Canada) Limited.

"If the producers of such films

(Continued on Page 3)

Stars Of MGM Film

Clark Gable and Alexis Smith are the stars of MGM's "Any Number Can Play," which has gone into production.

Not In Trouble, Rank Tells Newspaper

While J. Arthur Rank told the London Evening News emphatically that "the Rank Organization has no financial difficulties," Hollywood's leading trade paper reported "Rank Empire Shaking" and Tom O'Brien, MP, general secretary of the National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employees, conferred with Prime Minister Clement Attlee and Harold Wilson, president of the Board of Trade.

Rank told Jympson Harmon, film editor of the News, that "British films were never as well off as they are today" and said that, "if there is a crisis, it will

(Continued on Page 10)

Wallis Buys Novel

Hal Wallis has bought Larry Marcus' "No Escape" as a future starring vehicle for Burt Lancaster.

Canadian Film Weekly's

ANNUAL BO POLL

RETURN YOUR BALLOT

RED STALLION IN A GREAT NEW OUTDOOR SPECTACLE!

'RED STALLION IN THE ROCKIES' in COLOR

BOOK THIS EAGLE LION (Hollywood) MONEYMAKER NOW from INTERNATIONAL FILM DISTRIBUTORS

ALLIANCE FILMS LIMITED

PROUDLY PRESENTS
An Outstanding Box-Office Attraction

IT'S THE FUNNIEST, CORNIEST, SCREEN SHOW IN YEARS!

110 GIDDY-GLOWING GOLDEN MINUTES OF ENTERTAINING MOVING PICTURES OF THE LUSH OLD GAS-LIGHT DAYS!

Joseph E. Levine presents

CASLIGHT FOLLIES

YOU'LL WAKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT CHUCKLING AT THE FUN OF IT!

EAST LYNNE

A POIGNANT DRAMA... HILARIOUSLY NARRATED BY MILTON CROSS and ETHEL OWEN

COME AND HISS THE VILLAIN

THE DRUNKARD

A STAGGERING MELLOW DRAMA With the Same Cast as Has Been Playing 13 Years in Los Angeles

has 'em all
100 STARS
MARY PICKFORD
RUDOLPH VALENTINO
MARIE DRESSLER
WALLACE REID
CLARA BOW
LON CHANEY
THEODORE ROBERTS
COLLEEN MOORE
DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS
MARION DAVIES
POLA NEGRI
MABEL NORMAND
CHARLIE CHAPLIN
WM. S. HART

and
Those SWEET ADELINE SONGS

PLUS
UP-TO-THE-MINUTE NEWS OF 30 YRS. AGO
See
TIME MARCHES BACK!
Narrated by JOHN B. KENNEDY

A SWEET REMINDER OF THE DEAR OLD PAST

Alliance Films Limited

MONTREAL
5975 Monkland Avenue
ELwood 1275

SAINT JOHN
162 Union Street
3-3877

TORONTO
21 Dundas Square
Adelaide 2872

WINNIPEG
303 Donalds Block
928-330

VANCOUVER
1209 Granville Street
Tallow 2148

Now Playing

VICTORIA
THEATRE

Famous Players)

TORONTO

JUST COMPLETE
SUCCESSFUL
ENGAGEMENT

SAVOY
THEATRE
(Odeon)

HAMILTON



RAYMOND MASSEY

Presented with a Doctor of Laws degree by Queen's University at the 50th anniversary celebration of its Drama Guild. Leonard W. Brockington, K.C., Odeon vice-president, and Massey were the guest speakers.

Advance OK For Distrib Rights

(Continued from Page 1)

ber, 1947, that the Board limited advance payments for Canadian distribution rights, making it necessary to meet this type of obligation from earnings.

The ruling, established when Canada's shortage of foreign exchange was serious, has been applied strictly, the only exceptions having been made for owners of rights to foreign-language films produced in countries other than Great Britain and the United States.

However, the action of the Foreign Exchange Control Board is not to be considered a new policy but just a relaxation of the present one. Each application will be dealt with on its own merit and an exception to the present practice made if the Board considers it necessary.

Improvement of Canada's foreign exchange position made the change possible.

RKO Buys Novel

RKO has bought Gerald Drayson Adams' original "Star Sapphire."

Wanted

Position as manager. Ten years ticket seller—six years as manager. No booking or buying but did book-keeping. Married, sober, reliable, best of references. Speak both English and French.

Apply BOX 14

CANADIAN FILM WEEKLY
25 Dundas Square, Toronto

Picture Pioneers Ask Benev Fund Help

(Continued from Page 1)

with the entire proceeds for the Benevolent Fund. To this the large circuits have agreed and the present discussions are designed to get distributor co-operation. The sum being sought is \$100,000.

It is expected that if everything develops successfully as a result of the meeting between company representatives and the Pioneers' executive board, one theatre in each town or zone will offer the show, with the entire theatre community joining in to help. The public may not be informed of the purpose of the show, since it is being offered entertainment for its money. It is hoped, however, that local authorities in places where midnight shows are banned or restricted will show some understanding and relax the regulation for the one night. Stage shows will be added where possible.

The Pioneers hope for the fullest participation in the idea by the Independent exhibitor, and its executives feel that film salesmen and others can make non-Pioneer operators aware of the worthiness of the cause. All services will be provided gratis by projectionists, service staffs, etc. if they fall in line with the exhibs and distribis.

Director of the campaign is Oscar Hanson, head of Monogram in Canada, the responsibility being his because he is chairman of the Finance Committee. The Committee is made up of sub-committees in each district Pioneer group. Its members are as follows:

Toronto: the Hon. J. Earl Lawson, K.C., Morris Stein, El. H.

Mervyn Goldstone Joins Alliance

Mervyn Goldstone has joined Alliance Films Limited as Toronto branch and office manager, it has been announced by James L. Smith, president of Alliance.

Goldstone, who was formerly in the distribution field in the Toronto and Calgary territories, had filled the position of Toronto branch manager for the Canadian Selznick Releasing Organization since its formation a year ago.

Wells, Oscar Hanson, Ben Freedman, Al Troyer, William Redpath, Joe Garbarino, Harry Mandell, Clare Appel, George Beeston and Charles Mavety. They are all of Toronto.

Maritimes: A. J. Mason, Springhill, NS, and Mitchell Bernstein, Saint John, NB.

Quebec: Alex Adilman, Montreal, (chairman), Leo Choquette, Outremont, Quebec, D. A. Murray, Montreal, and Hillis Cass, Montreal.

Winnipeg: N. Rothstein, Winnipeg (chairman) H. Hurwitz, Saskatchewan, and Charles Krupp and S. Swartz, both of Winnipeg.

Vancouver: J. H. Boothe, (chairman), Frank H. Gow and Maynard Joiner, all of Vancouver.

Calgary: No finance committee elected but R. J. Dodderidge is president, W. O. Kelly vice-president and L. W. Hicks secretary and they will probably act as the committee.

Every type of exhibitor and distributor, as well as every section of the industry is represented by members of the Committee.

New Year's Eve Show Cost Exhibitors \$50

Eighteen Montreal theatres were condemned to pay \$50 and costs in Recorder's Court recently for having operated midnight shows last New Year's Eve.

The actions were taken after the theatres had violated section 23A of city by-law 1862, which forbids the presentation of shows after midnight.

The fines meant that any of the theatres prosecuted is faced with the possibility of being closed should there be a repeat performance within 12 months.

Theatres which were fined were: Princess, Palace, Capitol, Loew's, Strand, Champlain, Mercier, Electra, Beaubien, Villeray, Centre, Midway, Amherst, Orpheum, Imperial, York, Bijou, Passe-Temps and Chat-eau.

Cukor To Direct

George Cukor will direct MGM's Spencer Tracy-Katharine Hepburn starrer, "Man and Wife."

Raymond Massey Boosts Canada

(Continued from Page 1)

as 'Red Shoes', 'The Invaders', and 'Black Narcissus' are ready to make pictures in Canada, then let us build up a pool of Canadian acting talent on which they may draw for their productions," he told the 200 listeners in the Great Hall of the new Students' Union.

"Canada has always had a wealth of talent in such fine actors as Walter Huston, Walter Pidgeon and Hume Cronyn, but they had to leave the country in order that their abilities might receive full recognition. I believe in full reciprocity of talent, but let us provide Canadian actors with at least an initiation in the art in their own country. Let us support the drama here, so that a truly Canadian theatre might be developed."

Earlier in his address Massey had urged the decentralization of the theatre, for he felt that the revival of road and repertory companies were the only real proving ground for acting talent.

"Drama Guilds in universities can do and are doing more than any other agency in Canada now to overcome the lack of training facilities," he said. Congratulating Queen's for its half-century of drama activity, he said: "If, out of your work there comes one playwright and a deeper appreciation by the people of Canada of the history and tradition of the theatre, then you will have contributed immeasurably to the cause."

Massey, whose first theatre venture was as a Canadian soldier in Siberia during World War I, was praised by Brockington, who said that his fame forms part of the renown of Canada. The latter spoke of the glories of the Victorian and Edwardian theatres and said that such artists as Ellen Terry playing Shakespearean roles were far removed in quality from the "fleeing and evanescent things put before the public in the form of art today."

Douglas Dale, acting as toastmaster, welcomed the guests. Following the dinner an informal reception was held in the Common Room of the union. The next day Massey was given a Doctor of Laws degree and later he attended a special Drama Guild performance of "The Vise," prize-winning play by William R. Digby, young London, Ontario playwright.

Zachary Scott Added

Zachary Scott has been signed to appear with Jane Wyman and Dennis Morgan in Warner Brothers' "The Octopus and Miss Smith."

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Paramount's USA Consent Decree

PARAMOUNT'S theatre holdings in this country, the 370 theatres which are each owned or shared by Famous Players Canadian corporation, will not be affected because of the consent decree signed by the company last week. This decree, proposed by Paramount as a result of the victory of the USA Department of Justice after ten years of litigation, calls for separation of its exhibition interests from production-distribution, as well as the divestiture of certain theatres in a way to "assure either complete elimination of Paramount's interest or substantial independent competition for theatres converted from partial or total ownership" by the company.

In the case of Famous Players, the new producing company will retain control, for the leading Canadian circuit has long been part of Paramount Pictures, Inc. through Paramount International Films, Inc. Under the consent decree the producing company may also own theatres, providing that the court feels that the acquisition of a house does not restrain competition, and that the theatre did not belong to any of the other five companies whose activities have been enjoined.

Paramount's Canadian theatre holdings, along with its seven in the United Kingdom and seven elsewhere, were not affected by the consent decree, ownership and control of theatres outside the USA not being one of the questions before the Court.

No More Discrimination In Licensing of Films

The consent decree, signed by Paramount and agreed to by the Department of Justice, is now before the Federal Court of New York and its official approval is expected as we go to press.

This reorganization of Paramount's exhibition interests, the Justice Department explained, will give opportunity for independent first-run competition in substantially all cities over 25,000 where Paramount now owns theatre interests; and for independent competition in virtually all the smaller places where the company has more than one house.

Stock of the new theatre company will be placed in the hands of a voting trustee. Under court supervision he will administer trust terms designed to assure separate voting control of the two new companies upon ter-

mination of the trust, which will end five years from the reorganization date.

Inside of a year, the two new companies will be controlled and managed independently. Each will operate under existing judgment provisions affirmed by the United States Supreme Court, and additional terms of the proposed decree. One of these additional provisions will bar the new picture company from "discriminating in licensing feature films to any theatre on any run."

Through this provision, Paramount, when granting a license, must consider the "competitive merits" of each feature and theatre involved, but is "not required to make awards on competitive bids." Should different licensing provisions be written in a judgment affecting Fox, Loew or Warner, Paramount may have the choice of being bound by these instead.

Paramount Trying to Help Independent Producers

The Justice Department pointed out that when the suit was filed against Paramount, it was announced that civil rather than criminal proceedings were begun because "attempts had been made through the voluntary co-operation of Paramount and other major producers to adjust the difficulties of independent producers" who had "brought their problems" to the department.

The department last November accepted a similar plan advanced by Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corp., another defendant, for divorcing its exhibition interests from its production and distribution business. That proposal will be voted upon by RKO stockholders next month.

The form of final decrees for Loew's Inc., Warner Brothers Pictures and Twentieth Century-Fox are scheduled for argument in the New York court in April.

As in the case of RKO, the Paramount divestment proposal is subject to stockholders ratification.

A proxy statement to Paramount stockholders, explaining the full terms of the split-up, will be mailed late next week

and a special stockholders' meeting is to be held early in April.

What the Consent Decree Requires of Paramount

The Justice Department, which has urged a breakdown of large interests "to restore competition" in the theatre movie field, described the Paramount plan thus:

The new theatre company will be permitted to own a maximum of 600 theatres in the USA as against 1,450 theatres that comprise the Paramount circuit at present. Paramount now owns 449 theatres outright and operates the remainder on partnership basis. However, the new company may only retain 380 of the 449 since the other 69 must be sold to open up competition, according to the consent decree.

Paramount Pictures, Inc., as presently constituted would be dissolved and two new corporations created in its place; one a theatre operating company, the other a production and distribution company. Present Paramount stockholders would receive stock in the new picture production company but only "certificates of interest" in the proposed new theatre company, both in proportion to present holdings.

The actual theatre company stock would be placed in the hands of a voting trustee, who would handle it under direction of the Federal Court to assure separate control and management of the two new companies.

The trustee, over a period of five years, would be empowered to sell the stock to others, for the benefit of the certificate-holders, who would also receive the accumulated dividends. However, certificate-holders who want to obtain the actual theatre company stock could do so by showing that they have disposed of holdings in the picture production company.

Paramount would pledge non-discrimination in the licensing of feature films to any theatre on any run.

The government would require Paramount to divest itself of at least one wholly owned first-run theatre in 35 cities of

more than 25,000 population. In 13 other cities of the same size, only one first-run theatre may be retained by the new theatre company, and in three others two first-run houses. It must also divest itself of at least one wholly owned theatre in 28 towns of less than 25,000 population.

To attain the numerical strength allowed by the judgment, the new company therefore intends to buy control of 267 houses out of the 1,000 operated with partners. It was learned that the new company would have at its disposal a bank credit of \$12,500,000 to be used solely for acquiring properties.

Also Affects Television

Paramount's present television interests also will be divided as a condition of the consent decree. The new theatre company will control the WBKB television station in Chicago. The new picture company will acquire television station KTLA in Los Angeles and "the television interests represented by the holdings in Allen B. DuMont Laboratories, Inc."

Balaban Sees Decree As Constructive in Effect

"While the consent judgment requires divorcement of the theatre assets located in the United States from the other assets, it opens the way to one of the most constructive moves in the history of the corporation," stated Barney Balaban, president of Paramount Pictures, Inc. "It will leave the new theatre company with a large, well-selected and thoroughly sound theatre circuit. In my view it will be a strong, prosperous enterprise."

"The new picture company will be a leader in the field of motion-picture production-distribution with excellent studio facilities and an unexcelled worldwide distribution organization. Both companies will be strongly equipped in manpower and financial resources to carry on successfully in their respective fields of activity."

It is understood that Balaban will become "an officer and director" of the new picture company and that Leonard H. Goldenson, president of the Paramount Theatre Service Corporation, will become head of the new theatre company.

'The Little General'

Producer Jan Grippio has Robert Gumbert's "The Little General" and has scheduled it as a future Stanley Clements starrer.

**SHORT
THROWS**

NEW LIBERTY'S "puzzling film poll" is what we called it when its tabulations were announced last year. That was because — among other things — "Gentlemen's Agreement" was placed fourth by Canadian exhibitors in the voting for the best directed film of 1947. Since "Gentleman's Agreement" was not released in Canada until 1948, we couldn't figure that one out. This year Canadian exhibitors — according to New Liberty — voted "Hamlet" to be the best picture of 1948. The film could win that honor — but from critics rather than theatre operators. In 1947 it played a total of 31 engagements in Canada.

PARAMOUNT 16 MM. is back after an absence of three years. General Films are distributing it.

FOLKS FILED right out of the Mayfair, Dartmouth, when a flash fire occurred in the building. Councillor Ivan Haley, the manager, said that "it was wonderful how those people just got up and made their way out of the theatre."

VARIETY CLUB of Southern California has opened a Variety Boys' Club in Los Angeles which cost \$200,000 and will handle 2,000 kids. And the Chicago Variety tent gathered \$40,000 in donations for La Rabida Sanatorium, to which it had previously given \$76,000. The money was contributed at a dinner when Ben Lindheimer, racing and football magnate, offered \$10,000 if \$30,000 could be raised. Bob O'Donnell, International Chief Barker, was present.

NO CHANGE IN the present 25 per cent BC amusement tax will be made during the present session, nor will the three per cent tax on all purchases be dropped. The government's hospitalization and road expansion program needs the money.

G. K. FRASER, member from Peterborough, had his annual whack at the National Film Board recently. Commercial competition, white elephant, overstaffing and all his old complaints were repeated. But his charges provoked no debate.

**The Man From
Colorado**

with Glenn Ford, William Holden,
Ellen Drew.

Columbia (Technicolor) 99 Mins.
WESTERN-HISTORICAL ORIGINAL
YARN HAS NAMES, IS SOUND DRAMA-
TIC ENTERTAINMENT. SHOULD STAND
ALONE IN SUPPLYING ACTION, SPEC-
TACLE.

Borden Chase, who can generally be relied upon to deliver up a western-historical original story of better than average content, does it again here. Whipping up this opus for Glenn Ford, William Holden and Ellen Drew, Chase starts off as the Civil War ends. He locates his characters in Colorado where the centre of unsympathetic interest is Glenn Ford, commander of a cavalry troop, who corners a Confederate outfit and ignoring their white flag of surrender, brutally annihilates them with one exception.

Projected with such an initial strong, stark note which is developed further later on, the supplementing content of the story furnishes compelling drama as it moves from sequence to sequence before the curtain of doom does for Ford. In its genre the picture is a sound entertainment.

With Holden aware that something is wrong with Ford mentally, they return to civilian life. Ellen Drew has been waiting for Ford. Holden is a good loser in the love game. Shortly Ford is appointed Federal Judge, Holden is his marshal. Ray Collins shows up with a case. During the war, via a technicality, he took over gold claims that belonged to the local soldiery and since they had not been worked for a specified period of time, they are legally his. The irate vets don't take this lying down. Ford rules in Collins' favor. Holden soon has himself a bad time.

As judge Ford has a penchant for quick justice via rope or bullet. He is a homicidal maniac and Miss Drew shows her dislike by going over to the other side.

After a grim series of events wherein death rules the roost, Ford, attempting to smoke out embattled miners meets his end in the fiery collapse of a building, at the hands of a man he crossed up in the army.

CAST: Glenn Ford, William Holden, Ellen Drew, Ray Collins, Edgar Buchanan, Jerome Courtland, James Millican.

CREDITS: Producer, Jules Schermer; Director, Henry Levin; Screenplay, Robert D. Andrews, Ben Maddow; Original, Borden Chase; Photography, William Snyder.

DIRECTION: Good.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Good.

**The Fighting
O'Flynn**

with Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Helena
Carter, Richard Greene.

Empire-Universal 94 Mins.
ROUSING, COLORFUL, TONGUE-IN-
CHEEK HISTORICAL WHOOPLA. PLENTY
ENTERTAINMENT DELIVERED BY
FAIRBANKS IN SMART PRODUCTION.
CLICK BUSINESS INDICATED.

In the 94 minutes it takes Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., to abort an attempt by Napoleon to invade Ireland from the sea and consequently strike at England, there is delivered up a rousing, colorful, humorous and acrobatic entertainment which should be accepted by the audience in the same tongue-in-cheek spirit in which it is delivered.

Studded with assorted brogues contributed by Arthur Shields and J. M. Kerrigan for a more authentic note, the story permits Fairbanks to play his role to the hilt and he makes of it a merry, exciting, spectacular fiction with romantic overtones wherein he spars with the emotions of Helena Carter.

Managing to keep straight faces throughout the production, the supporting cast uniformly accomplishes their tasks. Richard Greene is properly sly as a specialist in treason. Patricia Medina plays a superstitious Colleen no better than she should be, who generally shows up on Greene's lap.

It is a smartly staged production with the cast and credits at the conclusion for a novel note. The chief players, introduced by Fairbanks, take bows a la legitimate stage.

In the time when Napoleon was contemplating his UK invasion, Fairbanks returns to Ireland from foreign wars, meets up with Miss Carter, falls in love with her and gets himself involved in wild intrigue, the focal point being Bonaparte's invasion plans which must be delivered to the viceroy.

Hounded by Creditor Arthur Shields, Fairbanks delivers the plans to Dublin and has one harum scarum time of it while Richard Greene plots and connives at ways and means to get rid of him.

CAST: Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Richard Greene, Helena Carter, Patricia Medina, Arthur Shields, J. M. Kerrigan, Ludwig Donath.

CREDITS: A Fairbanks Co. Prod.; Director, Arthur Pierson; Screenplay, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Robert Thoren; From the novel by Justin Hutli McCarthy; Photography, Arthur Edeson.

DIRECTION: Smart.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Excellent.

**Bill Pine Here To
Boost 'El Paso'**

Toronto exhibitors and members of the press heard straight-talking Bill Pine, of the Pine and Thomas Paramount team, declare that it was now necessary to get every dollar out of the boxoffice to support Hollywood in its effort to supply theatres with profitable product. A vital part of maintaining revenue at a strong level was showmanship and exploitation on the part of theatre operators.

Pine, introduced by Gordon Lightstone, has been swinging around the North American key centres boosting the team's first million dollar production, "El Paso," a super-western with Gail Russell, John Payne, Sterling Hayden, George "Gabby" Hayes, Dick Foran, Henry Hull and H. B. Warner.

The team used to make pictures which earned a mint without costing a mint and has now stepped into the big-money class of film after years in the small-but-sure category. Now they're gambling—but even then, Pine and Thomas have an angle. They think they can make a film for a million dollars that would cost the ordinary producer three million. The saving of time and money was what kept them in the business this long.

Pine also threw a boost in for "Royal Northwest Mounted Police," on which he was an assistant director and of which he has a piece. Then went out on the limb for Paramount's coming list, going over it picture by picture and boosting each like a press agent—which he, like Bill Thomas, used to be.

**Directors Re-elect
All MPEA Officers**

All officers of the Motion Picture Export Association were re-elected by the board of directors at a meeting held recently in New York under the chairmanship of John G. McCarthy, MPEA vice-president.

Those returned included Eric Johnston, Francis S. Harmon, McCarthy, Irving Maas and others.

Wanted

Assistant manager for downtown Toronto theatre. State age, experience and marital status.

Apply BOX 16
CANADIAN FILM WEEKLY
25 Dundas Square, Toronto

Warner Bros. Wins 23 Nominations
MORE THAN ANY

Two Pictures (OUT OF 5) Nominated for Best Picture of the Year!

"JOHNNY BELINDA"

**"TREASURE OF
SIERRA MADRE"**

Nominated for Best Actress

JANE WYMAN

in "Johnny Belinda"

Nominated for Best Actor

LEW AYRES

in "Johnny Belinda"

Nominations for the Academy Award! **WARNER BROS. COMPANY!**

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS

Warner Bros. is deeply proud of the splendid artistry of the men and women who made it possible for our studio to win twenty-three Academy Award nominations for motion pictures produced in 1948, including two of the five nominations for Best Motion Picture of the Year.

We are particularly proud of the fine spirit of cooperative effort which brought recognition in every phase of motion picture making.

We want to thank everyone who contributed so much to make this imposing array of nominations possible and to

express special appreciation to Henry Blanke, producer of "Treasure of Sierra Madre"; Jerry Wald, producer of "Johnny Belinda" and Steve Trilling, my associate.

We are grateful to all whose splendid achievement won for them and Warner Bros. the highest recognition of their associates in the motion picture industry.

Jack L. Warner
Executive Producer

9 Other Nominations for "Johnny Belinda"

Best Supporting Actress
AGNES MOOREHEAD

Best Supporting Actor
CHARLES BICKFORD

Best Direction
JEAN NEGULESCO

Best Screenplay
IRMGARD VON CUBE
ALLEN VINCENT

Best Cinematography
TED McCORD

Best Music
MAX STEINER

Best Sound Achievement
WARNER BROS. STUDIOS

Best Film Editing
DAVID WEISBART

Best Art Direction
ROBERT HAAS
WILLIAM WALLACE

3 Other Nominations for "Treasure of Sierra Madre"

Best Supporting Actor
WALTER HUSTON

Best Direction
JOHN HUSTON

Best Screenplay
JOHN HUSTON

And 7 More Nominations

Best Supporting Actress
CLAIRE TREVOR
in "Key Largo"

Best Cartoon
"MOUSE WRECKERS"
WARNER BROS. STUDIOS

Best Original Song
"IT'S MAGIC" from "Romance on the High Seas"
Music — JULES STYNE
Lyrics — SAMMY CAHN

Best Short Subject (2 Reels)
GORDON HOLLINGSHEAD
for "Calgary Stampede"

Best Short Subject (1 Reel)
GORDON HOLLINGSHEAD
for "CINDERELLA HORSE"
also "SO YOU WANT TO BE ON RADIO"

Best Scoring of Musical Picture
RAY HEINDORF
for "Romance on the High Seas"

Pit Music



Observanda

Love That Music, Archie

I dropped into the Casino Theatre the other night for a look at the vaudeville-burlesque program as an antidote to celluloid poisoning. Soon it came to me that I was hardly gazing at the stage or listening to the performers. Instead my ears were aimed at the smooth and enjoyable pit music of Archie Stone and his boys.

There is something about the forthright music which comes out of a theatre pit that hoists the spirit. It has plenty of brass, yet is neither pompous nor belligerent. The music is not of the circus, nor the parade ground, nor the dance emporium, nor the concert hall. But it seems to have some of each and for me has its own special character.

Certain phony qualities that are often found in other types of orchestra music are absent from the theatre pit. There is no over-arrangement of simple songs for hordes of musicians to cripple their rhythms, no involved renditions that challenge you to detect the original melody, etc.

I like pit music when the score of a new musical is being offered, or that of an old one. But I like it best when the assorted tunes required for a vaudeville or a burlesque show are enveloping the audience with novelty or nostalgia.

Perhaps one of these days some record company will offer an album of it. Why not? Theatre pit music belongs with Dixieland and Barber Shop, already rediscovered for their honest representations of Man's gay and romantic sides.

* * *

Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!

Talking about theatre pit music, was there ever a song that was more a part of it than "There's No Business Like Show Business?" You'll be hearing it plenty at the great Variety Show in the Odeon-Toronto on March 15th for crippled kids.

In the second place, it is one of the favorite tunes of Jack Arthur, who is producing the show with the assistance of Don Hudson, and Samuel Hersenhoren, who will conduct the orchestra. Sam's most recent public appearance was his return to the conductor's platform at Massey Hall to guide the Toronto Symphony Orchestra through that evening's concert.

And in the first place, which we offer second here for a "punch," "There's No Business Like Show Business" is the official song of the Variety Clubs International. It was presented to us by Irving Berlin.

Last time the Variety Club of Toronto held its show at the Imperial Theatre, which has 3,373 seats compared with the Odeon-Toronto's 2,320. The Imperial was jammed and as the last of the ticket holders sat down I found that I had an unsold ticket. I stepped out to the front of the theatre and held it aloft — and was almost trampled to death in the mad rush.

Might not be a bad idea if some of you non-Toronto showmen came in for the doings that night. Send me five dollars for each ticket you want and I'll mail it to you. But do it fast.

Such international headliners as the Golden Gate Quartet, Pearl Bailey and Carmen Torres, the last-named a star of the opera and concert stage, will entertain along with those yet to be added to the program. And there will be the North American preem of Eagle-Lion's great film, "The Passionate Friend."

* * *

Just to Fill the Column

Newest noise about Canadian production is that a company named Pilgrim Pictures, a Del Guidice enterprise, will shoot in Quebec. Former Canadian Alan Davis is doing the talking . . . It's a girl at the Doug (Odeon) Smiths . . . Sir Larry Olivier got the British best actor award, "The Fallen Idol" was named the best picture, and "Hamlet" got a special prize. Flaherty's "The Louisiana Story" copped the documentary trophy.

Quick Playoffs

George Formby, whose British films were terrific boxoffice in certain parts of Canada, will tour this country with his troupe, with Ernie Rawley of the Royal Alexandra arranging the itinerary. He'll be here for six weeks and should stimulate many a boxoffice . . . Also to be seen in Canada in the future is the Glasgow Citizens Theatre, of which Paul Vincent Carroll is one of the directors. The company will be accompanied by its main director, John Cassen, son of Dame Sybil Thorndike and Sir Lewis Cassen . . . Apparently greater sanity came to Saskatchewan with the CCF. The government lifted its ban on "The Snake Pit" after a screen explanation was added to it, in which the patrons were informed that provincial institutions weren't like those shown in the picture.

Fading fancies: finger rings made from horseshoe nails for the kids by kindly smiths . . . Brevignette of shadow boxing: The manly art of self-defiance . . . Fellow-lrkers: Street car conductors who won't miss a go light to save you 15 minutes on a cold corner . . . Unsung hero: Red Murphy, the newsboy at the northwest corner of Toronto's Cave of the Winds, King & Yonge Streets, has been selling papers right there for 60 years. Don't look back at that figure—I said "60 years." That's a private form of public service. Wouldn't you think that the Newsboys' Association would honor him in some way? . . . Progress: The corners and intersection of King at Yonge for years held the municipal record for people and traffic. Harry Swartz, another veteran news vendor thereabouts, says they are nothing like they used to be. The town has spread and there are busy intersections all over.

Describing his new column in the Telegram, "Fun Fare," Stan Helleur says: "Mostly it will deal with movies and the quaint characters who make up the industry." Helleur has developed a set of "thumbs up-thumbs down" symbols to indicate his opinions quickly. The film trade is against the use of stars and other symbols. The reader looks at the name of the picture, then at the symbol and reads no further if it is one of disapproval. Thus he never learns that his favorite star is in the film, that it has a background which has always interested him, etc. The use of symbols, it seems to me, reduces a critic's readership when they indicate that the film wouldn't be worth the reader's time. Why even read about it at all?

The February issue of Canadian Business carries an interesting article about British films in Canada. It's called "Col. Blimp comes to Canada" and is by Leonard L. Knott . . . The Photoplay Mag Award to the late Mark Hellinger's "The Naked City" was presented to his widow, now Mrs. Arthur Gottlieb, at the Hollywood dinner . . . Mildred Dixon's restaurant, El Rancho Casablanca, a hacienda-like structure on a farm at Winona, near Grimsby, is the talk of Toronto and Hamilton. She dropped two lobsters in Tom Daley's lap the other afternoon, knowing the culinary preferences of that unreconstructed Maritimer . . . Rose Fera, who used to manage the family's theatres in Northern Ontario, recently married Dr. F. Greco in Pompeii, Italy . . . As I was preparing the weather report of Charles Fothergill for the last issue, Gracie Fields told Radio's Fred Allen that "It breaks my English heart to know that we kept Canada and let you have Florida."

Six weeks for both Warners "Johnny Belinda" and Eagle-Lion's "Red Shoes." Same old story — good product is all the boxoffice needs . . . The Printer's strike I mentioned in the last issue didn't come off but we took no chances and went to press early. That's why some news in this issue is not so new . . . Too bad Helen Allen's work as Women's Page editor of the expanded Tely will take her off the movie beat. Backscreen people think of her as one of the grandest girls we know . . . "French Canada" is one of the films being produced by Louis deRochemont Associates as part of its geographic series. This two-reeler is being produced by Jean Lenauer of the Screen Director's Guild NY . . . Ex-Torontonian Frank Gregory is 20th-Fox' top talent scout in the east, I'm told.

John Joseph Joins MGM Ad Section

John Joseph, former Universal-International publicity and advertising head, has joined MGM as assistant to Howard Dietz, vice-president in charge of advertising, publicity and exploitation. Joseph will make his headquarters at the studio in Hollywood and will co-ordinate all activities in his department.

Previous to his 11-year affiliation with UI Joseph was with RKO Theatres as advertising and publicity man.

Sequel To 'Promise'

"A Road to the Stars" will be filmed by Glenn McCarthy Productions as a sequel to "The Green Promise," which is to be released shortly. RKO will handle both films.

Blumenthal Out As Cinecolor Chairman

A. Pam Blumenthal, salaried chairman of the board of Cinecolor and Film Classics, was recently dropped from both positions by unanimous vote of the board of directors. He still remains on the board and is succeeded by John D. Kerr.

ODEON, THEATRE HOLDING IN DEAL

Theatre Holding Corporation has acquired the interests of Odeon Theatres of Canada in several situations and at the same time sold the latter company its house in Newmarket, Ontario, the 395-seat Strand.

The theatres that will be operated in the future by Theatre Holding are the newly-opened Strand in Ingersoll, where it also operates the Maitland; the Alexander, Wallaceburg, formerly operated by the Odeon affiliate, National Theatre Services; and the Imperial, Humberstone, which also had an NTS hookup.

Theatre Holding also operates the Capitol, Wallaceburg. All the theatres affected are in Ontario and the town, in each case, is now closed.

CANADA DOING BETTER WITH USA

Canadian-American trade was much better in 1948 from this country's standpoint than at any time in years, it was shown in answer to a question asked in the House of Commons by G. J. McIlraith a member of the government party.

In 1948 the value of goods imported from the USA was \$1,808,500,000 compared with \$1,522,184,807 as the value of exports to that country, leaving it with a favorable balance of \$286,315,193.

In 1947 the value of imported goods was \$1,974,679,178 and that exported by Canada to the USA amounted to \$1,056,597,568, the USA favorable balance being \$918,081,610 in that year.

The favorable USA trade balance was reduced by \$631,766,419 from 1947 to 1948. This was accomplished by restrictions on imports and considerably increased exports.

Dan Dailey Cast

Dan Dailey will star in Twentieth Century-Fox' "Ticket to Tomahawk."

Milne To Script

Peter Milne will script Warner Brothers' forthcoming film, "Always Sweethearts."

Mitcheltree Heads Calgary Ass'n

R. J. Mitcheltree, manager of the Capitol Theatre in Calgary, was installed as president of the Calgary Theatres Association at a recent luncheon meeting at the Palliser Hotel. He succeeds P. D. Egan.

Also installed at the same time were Harry Cohen as vice-president and Don Menzies as secretary-treasurer.

'Blank Wall' Stars

James Mason and Joan Bennett will star in "The Blank Wall," film version of the novel of crime and punishment by Elizabeth Sanxay Holding. Walter Wanger will produce for Columbia with Max Opuls directing.

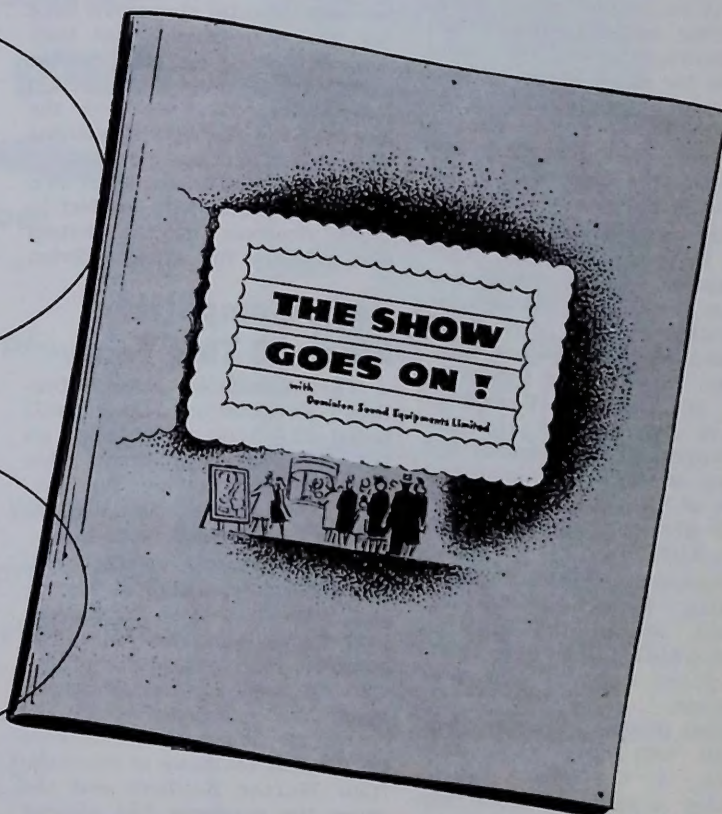
Foreign Film Firm Set Up In NY

A new foreign film distributing organization, Armanac, Inc., headed by A. R. Hourvitch, has set up New York offices at 15 East Fortieth Street. The initial release will be the Italian film, "His Young Wife," with Vara Carmi, Carlo Campanini and Gino Cervi.

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Another Western Drive-in Group

(Continued from Page 1)

the reports.

Western Drive-in Theatres Limited, of which Mervyn (Red) Dutton, former hockey star and wartime head of the National Hockey League, is president, will build a 650-car, \$150,000 open-air theatre on the Macleod Trail near Calgary. In-a-car speakers and heaters will be used and, while construction has not started as yet, it is hoped that it will be ready for opening in May. Frank H. Kershaw, former executive of Famous Players who is managing director of the new company formed by Alberta business men, stated that it will be the first of four drive-ins to be built. Two of them will be in Calgary and two in Edmonton.

Projected for Calgary is a \$1,125,000 building containing a theatre, on which construction is expected to start in April. It is planned by J. B. Barron of the Grand Theatre, an Odeon affiliate. He stated that the building is designed to carry the weight of ten storeys, but will have only two to five at the start. Everything above ground level will be used for office space. A floating hydraulic stage has been incorporated in the plans to allow for stage shows. On the ground level, along with the theatre, will be six stores. Contract has been awarded and architects are Stevenson, J. M. Cawston & Stevenson, Calgary.

Of the new theatres opened, one is in Quebec and the other in Ontario. In the first-named province the Capitol bowed in at Sherbrooke as the fifth house there and the third new one since the war. It is owned by Emile Elias of Eastern Townships Theatres Incorporated and the first program was a double bill made up of the French-language version of "Night and Day" and the English-language "Where There's Life."

In Ingersoll, Ontario Premier Operating, which operates the Maitland, opened the 516-seat Strand, which was built by S. O. Axelrod and acquired under arrangement.

Famous Players Canadian Corporation will open four new theatres in the near future. Scheduled to make its debut this month in the 1,530-seat University in Toronto. The 800-seat Capitol in North Battleford, Saskatchewan will open April 14th. The 900-seat Paramount in Kelowna and 902-seat Paramount in Chilliwack, both in BC, are expected to premiere on May 1st. In each of the three Western locations the only other operation is a Famous Players unit.

Not In Trouble, Rank Tells Newspaper

(Continued from Page 1)

be solved within the coming twelve months... The crisis is mostly with the Independents who cannot offset the possible loss on one picture by profits on another as I can. The Treasury must do something about that."

Explaining the layoff of more than 2,000 film workers by his studios, Rank said that they had been overstaffed and he had put off correcting this as long as he could. Manpower requirements were now reduced and a new technique now developed would eliminate others from steady employment in the making of films.

He said that he decided to put no more than his present \$50 million into production until his current plans were proved "commercial." Forty-two films would be made this year, with an average cost of \$600,000 each, and at no loss of quality.

The National Provincial Bank was ready to support his production, as it has in the past. "We have won the battle for a substantial share of the world's screens from the American monopoly," he said. "We are over the experimental stage. We have our foot in so firmly that they can never shift us." He expected great returns from his eight big productions. "We are over the hump and in the next 12 months will consolidate our position."

Rank's optimism about his own position brought little comfort to those members of the British film industry for whom O'Brien

was spokesman during his talk with Attlee and Wilson. To the government officers O'Brien proposed:

1. Government aid to film production.
2. Facilities to release foreign currency earned by British films.
3. A "more equitable distribution" of film earnings among producers, distributors and exhibitors.
4. Realization by the Government of British films' value in stimulating export trade.
5. Return of some of the £40,000,000 (\$160,000,000) annual entertainment tax to back British film production.

He said of the 100,000 workers in British film production and distribution, 60,000 were receiving wages below subsistence standards.

The Government agreed to loan money to producers from a film finance corporation now being set up. From its \$8 million fund six or seven pictures will be backed.

Hollywood Gross Like 1945 Figure

(Continued from Page 1)

sociation of America by Eric Johnston, president, and a staff of research experts.

In 1946, according to the Film Daily Year Book, the estimated gross of USA theatres was \$1,560,000,000 and that of 1945 was \$1,285,000,000. Canadian gross in 1946 was \$59,888,972 and in 1945 it was \$55,430,711. These figures do not include federal and provincial amusement taxes, nor does the 1947 figure of \$62,865,279. Canada's 1948 figure has not been released yet.

The world gross, with frozen revenue included, was less than 10 per cent below 1946, estimated by Film Daily Year Book as \$2,700,000,000 in that year. Accumulated frozen foreign funds is said to approximate \$50,000,000 for 1948.

The ability of Americans to buy theatre tickets is 50 per cent greater than before the war, but the number of tickets sold was approximately the same, according to Dr. Arno Johnson, chief of the J. Walter Thompson Research and Statistical Branch, who addressed the meeting. The desire to attend theatres, rather than ability to pay, is the governing factor in ticket sales.

Eric Johnston warned the industry chiefs that as the dollar shortage abroad grows, the remittances from abroad for motion pictures will decrease.

Seven SRO Stars Now At Warners

(Continued from Page 1)

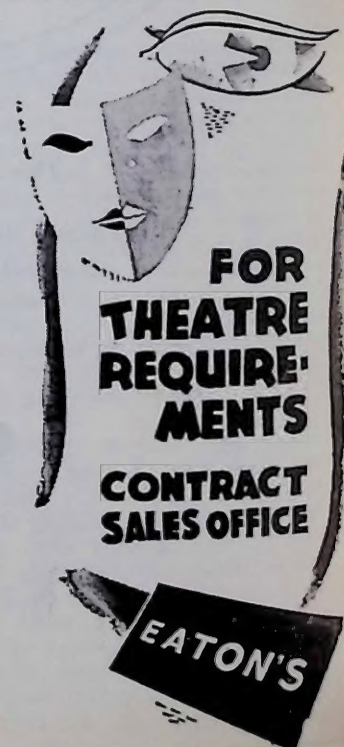
by David O. Selznick that an arrangement had been reached. The deal has been in negotiation since last year.

Contracts call for the loan of seven Selznick players and a director to Warners at a price in excess of \$1,000,000. The agreement includes the services of Joseph Cotten, Jennifer Jones, Louis Jourdan and Gregory Peck for one picture each; Shirley Temple and Betty Drake for two pictures each; Rory Calhoun for half of his pictures during the remaining term of his Selznick contract; and Robert Stevenson, director, for the entire remaining term of his Selznick contract.

The deal provides that Cotten will go to Warners to play opposite Bette Davis in "Beyond the Forest" and that Miss Jones and Jourdan will appear together in Warners' "Victoria Grandoleet," which Michael Curtiz will direct. Selznick has agreed that Warners may use Peck in any one of three films: "Ethan Frome," "Jet," or "Bright Leaf."

Miss Temple's two assignments will be "Pretty Baby" and "Always Sweethearts." Miss Drake's two assignments are still being discussed by Selznick and Warners.

The remaining Selznick players, including Alida Valli, Robert Mitchum, Dorothy McGuire, Rhonda Fleming, Kathy O'Donnell, John Agar, Guy Madison, Christopher Kent and Rossano Brazzi, are available for assignment, either on loanout or by Selznick himself when he resumes production in Hollywood.



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—THE FILM DAILY

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